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FLOOR DEBATE

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two water basins, unlike any other NRD in our state. But they are essentially inconsequential in terms of this problem. So if you go back and look at the Lower Republican on the line called "Irrigation"--and this does not include any replacement wells--you can see that in that time period, from 1998, from the time this moratorium was discussed in public on this legislative floor...and by the way, in 1998 when this was discussed, the room was full. It was full of people representing the Lower Republican NRD, the Middle Republican NRD, the Upper Republican NRD, the Association of NRD members, the Farm Bureau, and everybody else, and they said, you're crazy, no moratorium is needed. And Stenberg was fueling the fires.

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR BEUTLER: And we'll get back to that, because I want to remind you of what the actual language is in the compact, which is so obvious that any nonlawyer would read it the same way as the federal court read it. And we just ought to accept the fact that for better or for worse, our forefathers in the 1940s stuck us with a treaty, an agreement, a compact which, for better or for worse, we need to follow. And by the way, I will just say parenthetically, I'm not of the opinion that our forefathers gave us a raw deal. It was fair for its time, maybe fair for now. So in the Lower Republican...let's go back to the chart. Under "Irrigation," in those years, from 1998 to 2005,...

SENATOR CUDABACK: Time, Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: ...537 wells were drilled. And I'll start, when I have more time, at that point.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Beutler. Senator Langemeier, followed by seven others.

SENATOR LANGEMEIER: Thank you, Mr. President. I rise in support of LB 32. I...as a former NRD member, board member, where I sat there for seven years, as these water issues become more and more prevalent and more and more time-consuming, I do support the raise in the cap for their per diem. But I do not support AM1696 at this time on this bill. I do believe that